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BRINGUIER
FIRST TOLD
HIM ABOUT
OSWALD

10 WCH 39–
BRINGUIER'S
ACCOUNT

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Lee Harvey Oswald

In the eighteen years since I interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans—the only taped Oswald interview ever made public—I've not made one public comment about how other writers have referred to that episode. I've always felt that the public record on my contacts with Oswald—the fact that I sought him out in New Orleans on August 17, 1963, to appear on my WDSU (then an NBC affiliate) radio program, "Latin Listening Post," in spite of criticism that I would be allowing a "Communist" to "propagandize" the right-wing New Orleans public—was extensive enough to prevent distortion by other writers, historians, or special-interest groups.

That's why I almost burst my appendix laughing at your piece by Warren Hinckle and William W. Turner, "The Mystery of 544 Camp St." (October 1981), as excerpted from their book *The Fish Is Red,* published by Harper & Row. On your page 180, Hinckle and Turner write, ". . . Manuel Gil set up the famous debate between Oswald and [Carlos] Bringuier, in which Oswald declared . . . 'I am a Marxist.' " Sorry, friends, but Oswald was *my* media discovery, and *I* arranged the WDSU debate after the station manager refused to run the full length of the thirty-seven-minute August 17 tape (which I had had to boil down to fit my five-minute slot) and instead suggested I set up a debate with "anti-Castro people" on the panel. It was in answer to *my* question on that debate "Are you a Marxist?" that Oswald made his admission.

I hesitate to drag out the whole barrel of details leading up to my Oswald contacts, including the self-serving ones, but I will if this kind of trash history keeps popping up. For the record the only "name" reporters ever to interview Oswald before the assassination were Patricia Johnson (then Patricia McMillan), who talked to him for a North American Newspaper Alliance story when he attempted to give up his Ameri-

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can citizenship in Moscow in 1959, and, humbly, myself, a Latin political-affairs columnist in the early 1960s for the *New Orleans States-Item,* the only reporter ever to win two awards for public-affairs reporting from the American Political Science Association.

I have *no* theory on who killed JFK, since Mr. Oswald did not inform me of his future plans at the time of the interview and debate —*William K. Stuckey, Dallas, Tex.*